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ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 130718Z APR 07  
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4323  
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS IMMEDIATE  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 0652  
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE 1462  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RHHJJPI/USPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE  
RHMCSUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEAWJB/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 JAKARTA 001050

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR S/CT, EAP/MTS, INL FOR BOULDIN  
DOJ FOR CTS THORNTON, AAG SWARTZ, OPDAT FOR  
LEHMANN/ALEXANDRE  
FBI FOR ETTUI/SSA ROTH  
NCTC WASHDC

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PTER](#) [PGOV](#) [KJUS](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [ID](#)  
SUBJECT: POSO CHRISTIANS CHARGED WITH TERRORISM

REF: A. JAKARTA 826

[1B](#). 06 JAKARTA 12100  
[1C](#). 06 JAKARTA 13454

#### Summary -----

[11](#). (U) Trials opened in Jakarta the week of April 2 in the cases of 17 Christians from Poso, Central Sulawesi. The men are charged with terrorism and pre-meditated murder in the killings of two Muslims in September 2006. The killings were reportedly a reaction to the execution just days earlier of three Christians convicted of murder for their role in a series of attacks on Muslims during 1999-2001. The cases mark the first known use of the Antiterror Law of 2003 against Christians in Indonesia. The cases are being tried by the Attorney General's Task Force on Terrorism and Transnational Crime, whose formation in 2006 was funded by a \$750,000 FY04 ESF grant. End Summary

#### The Indictments -----

[12](#). (SBU) The trials of 17 suspects involved in the murders of two men in Poso, Central Sulawesi, recently got underway in Jakarta. As with previous cases involving violence in Poso, the trials were moved to Jakarta both for security reasons and to avoid inflaming passions in Poso, where tensions continue to run high. The suspects, all of whom are Christian, allegedly murdered the two victims in retaliation for the execution of three Poso Christians last September (ref B). The three were convicted of murder for their role in attacks on Muslims during the unrest of 1999-2001. The suspects are being tried in two groups: one group of 12 and another of five. According to the indictments, the group of 12 set up a roadblock on a highway outside Poso. They allowed at least one car, whose driver was a Christian, to pass safely but stopped another car containing the two victims, whom the suspects identified as Muslims. The two men were then taken from the car and struck repeatedly, but managed to flee into a nearby house. The mob then forcibly removed the victims from the house and beat them into unconsciousness, while the car was dumped into a ditch. The

second group of five suspects then arrived and assisted in moving the inert bodies to a different location. According to the indictments, when one of the victims was found to be still alive, a suspect struck a fatal machete blow to the victim's neck. The group then buried the two bodies.

13. (SBU) Both groups face charges under paragraph 6 of the 2003 Antiterrorism Law, as well as charges of premeditated murder, manslaughter and concealing evidence under the general criminal code. The terrorism charge carries a maximum sentence of death. The indictments rely heavily on the statements of the suspects themselves and of three key witnesses. These include the two men who were stopped in their car by the group but later released when it was determined they were Christians, and the man who attempted to shelter the two victims in his home. The indictments also cite the coroner's reports on the two victims.

#### The Suspects -----

14. (SBU) The 17 suspects are as follows:

Hapri Tumonggi aka Api  
DOB: 23 April 1978  
POB: Poso

Darman Aja aka Panye  
DOB: 1983  
POB: Masani, Central Sulawesi

Edwin Poima aka Epin  
DOB: 8 December 1981  
POB: Poleganyara, Central Sulawesi

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Agus Chandra aka Anda  
DOB: 17 August 1983  
POB: Olumokunde, Central Sulawesi

Syaiful Ibrahim aka Ipul  
DOB: 13 October 1984  
POB: Poleganyara, Central Sulawesi

Erosman Tioki aka Eman  
DOB: 12 August 1979  
POB: Galuga, Central Sulawesi

Walsus Alpin aka Eje  
DOB: 26 November 1983  
POB: Olumokunde, Central Sulawesi

Benhard Tompondusu aka Tende  
DOB: 30 December 1978  
POB: Poleganyara, Central Sulawesi

Sastra Yuda Wastu Naser aka Ibo  
DOB: 17 August 1983  
POB: Poleganyara, Central Sulawesi

Romi Yanto Parusu aka Romi  
DOB: 1 August 1987  
POB: Poleganyara, Central Sulawesi

Fernikson Bontura ala Kenong  
DOB: 10 November 1986  
POB: Poleganyara, Central Sulawesi

Jefri Bontura aka Karate aka Ate  
DOB: 22 December 1985  
POB: Poleganyara, Central Sulawesi

Arnoval Mencana aka Opan  
DOB: 23 August 1981  
POB: Poleganyara, Central Sulawesi

Bambang Tontou aka Bambang  
DOB: 26 August 1983  
POB: Poleganyara, Central Sulawesi

Jonathan Tamsur aka Nathan  
DOB: 12 December 1983  
POB: Paramba

Dedy Doris Serpainus Tempali aka Dedy  
DOB: 3 January 1981  
POB: Poleganyara, Central Sulawesi

Roni Sepriyanto Rantedago Parusu aka Oni  
DOB: 3 September 1988  
POB: Poleganyara, Central Sulawesi

First Christians Charged With Terror  
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15. (SBU) The trials mark the first known use against Christians of the Antiterror Law of 2003; previously terror charges were mainly leveled against Muslims linked to Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) or other Islamic extremist groups. Muslim Defense Team (TPM) attorneys for three Poso Muslims recently convicted of terrorism in the case of the 2005 schoolgirl beheadings (ref A) complained to the press during the trials that the Antiterror Law was being used exclusively against Muslims. The TPM cited this in alleging that law enforcement officials were unfairly targeting Poso's Muslim community, a belief they claimed was widely shared among Muslims in Poso. It is not clear whether those statements had any impact on the indictments against the 17. (Note: INP investigators told us that the reason terrorism charges had not previously been brought against Christians in Poso was that Muslims were behind the terrorist violence carried out since the law was passed. Before the present instance, most if not all the

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Christians arrested in Central Sulawesi had committed their crimes in the years prior to the passage of the law.) According to one legal expert, the terrorism charge is correct only if the prosecutors can prove that the murders caused widespread fear or panic among the local Muslim population; otherwise, the crimes should be tried as murder. The indictments do not address this aspect of the case.

16. (SBU) The trials are being handled by prosecutors from the Attorney General's Task Force on Terrorism and Transnational Crime. The Task Force was created in 2006 with USG support in the form of a \$750,000 FY04 ESF grant (ref C). Task Force prosecutors recently won terrorism convictions against the three Poso terrorists cited above, and are currently preparing cases against eight other suspects linked to attacks in Poso.

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